CLAIMS

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1. A dynamic virtual network on which participating members can establish partnerships, communicate, and share information, the network comprising:

a network authority including a computer programmed for network administration;

at least a first network member and a second network member, each member including a computer comprising means for communicating over a global network;

at least a first network access device and a second network access device, wherein the first access device is accessible by the first network member and the second access device is accessible by the second network member; and

for each network access device and the network authority, an interface facilitating connection to a global network.

2. The network claimed in claim 1, wherein the global network interface provides priority network transmission by connection to a commercial global network system which provides business critical levels of service.

3. A dynamic virtual network claimed in claim 1, including means for communication between the first and second network access devices, and the network authority, which utilizes digital certificates.

4. A dynamic virtual network claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first and second network members include means for exchanging public keys.

5. A dynamic virtual network claimed in claim 1, wherein the network authority further includes a means for contemporaneously archiving a communication transmitted over the network.

6. A dynamic virtual network claimed in claim 1, wherein each network access device includes a means for contemporaneously archiving a communication transmitted through the device.

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7. A dynamic virtual network claimed in claim 1, including means for enabling limited access to the member's information to other network members, while excluding non-members from access.

8. A network access device facilitating access by a network member to a dynamic virtual network, the device comprising:

a global network interface accessible to the network member and the dynamic virtual network; and

a processor and memory containing:

software means for identifying the network member to a network authority;

information describing the network member; and

software means for the contemporaneous archiving of transaction communications.

9. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, where the software means for identifying the network member utilizes digital certificates.

10. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, wherein the information describing the network member includes a subset of commercial and personnel data describing a member.

11. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, further comprising software means for accessing and searching, over the global network, at least a first directory of information describing the network member.

12. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, further including software for translating text into an extensible markup language and displaying software for displaying a document coded in extensible markup language to a user.

13. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, further comprising software means for modifying and storing the member's company profile information.

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14. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, further comprising software means for modifying and storing the member's user profile information.

15. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, further comprising software means for modifying and storing the member's role information.

16. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 8, including means for enabling limited access to the member's information to other network members.

17. A device facilitating access to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 16, in which the network access device includes means for publishing selected company information to other network members while excluding access by network non-members.

18. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network, the method comprising:

providing information regarding the prospective network member to a network authority;

qualifying by the network authority the prospective network member; and

issuing by the network authority network access capability to the prospective network member.

19. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 18, wherein the qualifying step includes verification of the provided information with third-party information.

20. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the provided information includes at least a first financial datum of the prospective network member.

21. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the provided information includes at least a first personnel datum of the prospective network member.

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22. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the provided information consists of general business entity data of the prospective network member.

23. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

connecting the prospective network member to the network; and

confirming by the network authority the veracity of the prospective network member's network access information.

24. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 18, wherein the network access capability is facilitated by a network access device, the network access device limiting dynamic virtual network access to subscribed network members.

25. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 18, wherein the network access capability includes assignment of at least a first digital certificate to the new network member.

26. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 18, where the network access capability includes assignment of at least one internet protocol address.

27. A method for subscribing a prospective network member to a dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 23, wherein the confirmation step includes verification of at least the first certificate assigned to the network member.

28. A method for forming a partnership between two dynamic virtual network members connected by a network, the method comprising:

selecting a partnership criterion by the first network member;

broadcasting the partnership criterion by the first network member to other network members;

receiving by a second network member the partnership criterion;

the second network member responding to the first network member; and

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establishing a partnership relationship between the first network member and second network member.

29. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network members are connected to the network via a network access device which denies network access to network non-members.

30. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the establishment step grants the first network member access to private data via the second network member's access device.

31. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the establishment step grants the first network member access to private data on the second network member's shared storage area.

32. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the establishment step includes transmittal by the first network member to the second network member of authorization to access private data on the first network member's network access device.

33. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the establishment step includes transmittal by the first network member to the second network member of authorization to access private data on the first network member's shared storage area.

34. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the establishment step includes permitting access by the first network member partner to role information of the second network member partner.

35. A method for forming a partnership over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 28, wherein the partnership establishment includes reciprocally permitting access by one network member partner to role information of the other network member partner.

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36. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network, the method comprising:

transmitting and contemporaneously archiving information from a first network member to a second network member; and

receiving and contemporaneously archiving the transmitted information by the second network member.

37. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein a priority network transmission is carried by a commercial global network service which provides business critical levels of service.

38. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, further comprising the steps of transmitting and contemporaneously archiving by the second network member a response to the first network member; and receiving and contemporaneously archiving by the first network member the response received.

39. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein the transmitted information is contemporaneously archived by the network authority.

40. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein the archiving control element resides in the network access device.

41. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein transmitting and contemporaneously archiving information includes transmitting and contemporaneously archiving a document whose terms are unalterable.

42. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein receiving and contemporaneously archiving the transmitted information includes sending a return receipt.

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43. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, further comprising establishing a partnership between the first and second network members before the transmitting and contemporaneous archiving step.

44. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein transmitting and contemporaneously archiving includes encrypting the information.

45. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 44, wherein encrypting the transmitted information includes exchanging public keys between the first and second network members.

46. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 36, wherein receiving and contemporaneously archiving transmitted information includes digitally signing a document by the second network member.

47. A method for conducting a transaction between network members over the dynamic virtual network as claimed in claim 46, wherein receiving and contemporaneously archiving transmitted information further includes transmitting the signed document to the first network member.

48. A method for the presentation over a network of information belonging to a plurality of disparate users of the network, wherein the information is searchable using a single search query, the method comprising:

creating a database capable of being connected to the network;

collecting information from a first network user;

inputting information for the first network user into the database utilizing a data structure;

collecting information from a second network user; and

inputting information for the second network user into the database utilizing the same data structure.

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49. The method for the presentation over a network of information as claimed in claim 48, wherein the database exists in two or more at least partly unique subsets and wherein at least one of the partly unique subsets resides in the memory of a computer separate from the other subsets of the database.